

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 /057 W

-----121031Z 015649 /15

R 120907Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4793

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 0570

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SHUM, PFOR, RP, US

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT

REF: STATE 04790

1. ON JAN 11, EMBASSY RECEIVED DFA NOTE DATED JAN 10 REQUESTING COPY OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT ON PHILIPPINES. ON JAN 12 WE PROVIDED COMMITTEE PRINT WHICH INCLUDED OTHER COUNTRIES AS WELL AS PHILIPPINES. WE WILL CONVEY ORALLY TO APPROPRIATE GOP OFFICIALS SUBSTANCE PARA 3 REFTEL.

2. PRESS COMMENT ON REPORT CONTINUES. NOT SURPRISINGLY EDITORIAL IN KERIMA POLOTAN TUVERA'S JAN 11 EVENING POST IS MOST SAVAGE COMMENT SO FAR. EDITORIAL, WHICH MAINTAINS FILIPINO PEOPLE SHARE MARCOS' FEELING OF REVULSION AND OUTRAGE," CHARACTERIZES REPORT AS ATTEMPT PROVOKE GOP INTO REVERSING ITS INDEPENDENT FOREIGN POLICY AND AGREE TO US POSITION ON BASES. EDITORIAL STATES: "NOTHING THE STATE DEPARTMENT CAN CONJURE UP OR IMAGINE IN HUMAN CRUELTY TO CHARGE THE PHILIPPINES WITH IN THE HANDLING AND TREATMENT OF PRISONERS COULD COME UP TO EVEN A FRAGMENT OF THE ATROCITIES, THE BARBARIC CRUELTY, THE INHUMAN ACTIONS DOCUMENTED BY OBSERVERS AND THE US MILITARY ITSELF, THAT AMERICAN SOLDIERS PERPETRATED AGAINST THE VIETNAMESE

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PEOPLE." EDITORIAL SAYS "MISCHIEF OF THE US STATE DEPARTMENT LOOMS LARGER" IN VIEW GOP'S WILLINGNESS LET OUTSIDERS VISIT DETENTION CENTERS, AND SAYS CLARIFICATION FROM WASHINGTON IS SURELY IN ORDER. IF IT IS NOT SATISFACTORY THE "GOVERNMENT HERE SHOULD DO WHAT MUST BE DONE TO EMPHASIZE OUR STAND AND OUR INDEPENDENCE."

3. TIMES JOURNAL COLUMNIST GRANADA WRITES JAN 12 THAT PRESIDENT MARCOS AND GOP "OUTRAGED" BY REPORT. HE SAYS SOURCE OF REPORT IS US EMBASSY. "SINCE THE REPORT IS A LIE, THEN WHAT DOES THAT MAKE OF US AMBASSADOR WILLIAM SULLIVAN AND HIS COHORTS AT THE EMBASSY? LESS HOSPITABLE GOVERNMENTS WOULD HAVE FOUND THE STATE DEPARTMENT REPORT SUFFICIENT GROUND FOR DECLARING AMBASSADOR SULLIVAN PERSONA NON GRATA." MOST MODERATE TREATMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS REPORT APPEAR IN JAN 10 BULLETIN COLUMN BY BATALLA WHO SUGGESTS SOURCES OF REPORT BE GIVEN TO GOP.

4. MEMBER OF AMRSP DETAINEES COMMITTEE, WHO TOLD EMBOFF JAN 11 HER GROUP ENCOURAGED BY REPORT PUBLICATION, ASKED FOR COPY AND SAID AMRSP IS PLANNING REVISE PUBLICATION POLITICAL DETAINEES IN THE PHILIPPINES. FATHER PACIFICO ORTIZ, REPRESENTATIVE ON CHURCH MILITARY LIAISON COMMITTEE (CMLC), TERMED REPORT SALUTARY. AS PRACTICAL MATTER, HOWEVER, ORTIZ THOUGHT THERE HAD BEEN DECLINE IN DETAINEE MALTREATMENT SINCE AI TEAM VISIT.

5. IN RELATED DEVELOPMENT, FORMER SENATORS TANDA AND DIOKNO OF FREE LEGAL ASSISTANCE GROUP HAVE WRITTEN SECRETARY ENRILE ASKING FOR RELEASE OF 13 DETAINEE CLIENTS AGAINST WHOM NO CHARGES HAVE BEEN FILED. CITING PRESIDENT MARCOS' ORDER (MANILA 374), TANDA SAID HE WOULD APPEAL TO SUPREME COURT IF DETAINEES NOT RELEASED IN FIVE DAYS. TANDA ALSO SAID HE HAD BEEN TOLD ONLY ON JAN 11 THAT HE COULD SEE HIS CLIENTS EVEN THOUGHT THEY HAD RETAINED HIS SERVICES LAST NOVEMBER.

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6. COMMENT: BY NOW EVEN PHIL EMBASSY WASHINGTON SHOULD HAVE TRANSMITTED REPORT TO DFA. OPPOSITIONISTS HERE WILL ALSO HAVE COPIES SOON. WITHOUT SIGNS OF THE TIMES, HOWEVER, ITS CIRCULATION MAY BE LIMITED. OFFICIAL REACTION TO REPORT STILL CONFINED TO MARCOS' UP LAW ALUMNI SPEECH. MARCOS MAY NOW BE MULLING OVER FURTHER STEPS TO TAKE ALTHOUGH IT IS POSSIBLE THAT AFTER CONSULTATION WITH MORE THOUGHTFUL ADVISERS HE MAY DECIDE LET ISSUE RIDE FOR THE MOMENT AND RESURRECT IT WHEN HE FEELS IT MAY BE TO HIS ADVANTAGE.  
SULLIVAN

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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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